

A N
A B S T R A C T
Of the Draught of a
B I L L
F O R

*Relieving, Reforming, and Em-
ploying the POOR.*

The united Wisdom of our *Noble* and *Honourable* SENATORS, may frame such a Bill (of which this ABSTRACT is but an *Imperfect ESSAY*) as will probably answer ALL the Good INTENTIONS of THIRTY STATUTES (now in force) relating to the Premises: And the Principal Intents and Purposes of those numerous Laws, concerning the POOR, are Four, *viz.*

First, Comfortably to maintain all those, whose *Infancy, Age,* or *Infirmities*, render them *incapable* of Labour; so that no Poor Briton, may be then obliged or permitted to beg.

Secondly, To reform the *Profligate Poor*.

Thirdly, In the most *beneficial Manner* (for *Great Britain's COMMON GOOD*) to Employ all the *capable Poor*; so that th'*INDUSTRIOUS* may *never want Work*; and the *LAZY Poor* be COMPELLED to Labour. And,

Lastly, To reduce our Payments to the Poor, which are now supposed to be *Twelve Hundred Thousand Pounds per annum* Charge to *Great Britain*——But this *Great Burden* this SCHEME proposeth TOTALLY to discharge in Thirty Years.

Hereunto is prefix'd,

A Brief Account of what was done by both LORDS and COMMONS in 1704, for reducing all Laws, relating to the Poor, into ONE *General Bill*— And also herein is set forth, the principal *Considerations*, upon which this SCHEME is grounded, and the Publick Benefits from thence proceeding.

Printed for the Author.

There will shortly be PUBLISH'D,

THREE ABSTRACTS of (as many) Bills in 1704. depending in Parliament, for the better *Relief, Employment, and Settlement* of the *Poor*. — The first of these then pass'd the House of *Commons*. — The second was drawn by some of the then Judges. — And the third by the then Lords Commissioners of Trade. And these three Bills, then order'd by the House of Lords to be publish'd. Price 3 d.

TWO PROPOSALS for Employing the *Poor*: The first of these by Sir *Mathew Hale*, once Lord Chief Justice. The second by Sir *Josiah Child*, Bart. a very Eminent Merchant. Price 3 d.

Essex's Innocency and Honour vindicated.

AN Answer to that Part of Mr. *Eachard's* History; (lately PUBLISH'D) wherein he hath misrepresented **ARTHUR** (late) Earl of *Essex*, under the most infamous Character; and has therein falsly suggested, that it was *Twice well-prov'd*, that his Lordship *murder'd himself*, — whereas the contrary thereunto will herein plainly appear. And an abstracted Account, is here given, of what hath been sworn by *Sixty Witnesses*, to prove that Noble Lord to have been barbarously murder'd. Mr. *Eachard* is herein also detected of misrepresenting Mr. *Braddon*, as found guilty of *Subornation* for endeavouring to prove that **L O R D** Murdered — Whereas (in Fact) **SUBORNATION** was not so much as nam'd in Mr. *Braddon's* Information, or was there any thing Criminal (at his Tryal) prov'd against him, — as by his Information, and all the **PROOFS** (out of the printed Tryal) here publish'd, will plainly appear. — But nevertheless Mr. *Braddon's* Jury found him guilty of **CONSPIRING ALONE** (which is a Contradiction) and the then Court (in 1683.) fin'd him *Two Thousand Pounds*, and order'd him to give Security for his good Behaviour during Life. — Under which severe Sentence, he might have lain for Life, had not the *Happy Revolution* (in 1688.) deliver'd him from such his Imprisonment.

All Three Printed for R. Robinson and T. Warner





To the Right Honourable the Lords
Commissioners of his MAJESTY'S
Treasury,

My Lords,

Whatever Discoveries can be made, which
W may probably advance the *Treasure* of both
KING and KINGDOM, may properly
be submitted to your Lordship's Con-
sideration; and I do therefore hope, that your Ho-
nours will pardon my Addressing these following
CONSIDERATIONS, and ABSTRACTED BILL,
to your Lordships Perusal; for herein I have endea-
vour'd to prove, that By Establishing one Loyal and Ge-
neral Corporation, of Governor and Company of Fathers
and Guardians of the POOR of Great Britain (upon
such Terms, as to His Majesty's great Wisdom, and to
his Noble and Honourable Senators great Judgment,
shall seem meet) above Twelve hundred thousand (now
capable, but miserable and chargeable, or unprofitable
Poor) may be made, under that Authority, happy in
themselves, and productive of some Millions Sterling per
Ann. clear Gain to Great Britain — And such a COR-
PORATION (under GOD) may farther produce all
other Political Benefits, which from POPULOUS-
NESS, ARTS, and INDUSTRY (guarded upon all Oc-
casions by Formidable Fleets, and Powerful Armies) we
can possibly receive; and yet thereby not hazard either
CHURCH, or STATE, or any other General Interest
whatsoever.

But, my Lords, I have just Cause to fear, that such a Corporation will never be establish'd, and the Poor under that Authority made beneficial to *Great Britain*, UNLESS all *THEY*, who shall be the *Principal Subscribers* to this CORPORATION, and shall become the *Chief Governors* thereof, shall have reasonable Grounds to *believe*, that they *Themselves* shall receive, some *Considerable Gains*, for their Monies therein to be advanc'd, and their Time to be spent in such Service.

INTEREST is the *main Spring*, which gives Motion to the most considerable Designs in this World, and very little wou'd be done (in Comparison of what ought to be done) for the Good of Mens *Souls, Bodies, or Estates*, if no *Private Gains* did arise from serving either —

All *Christendom* doth, therefore, encourage, by Good *Livings*, and profitable *Dignities, Large Fees*, and Great *Preferments*, the Studies of *DIVINITY, PHYSICK*, and *LAW*, as *necessary* in their several Respects (and *Right Use*) for our *Common Good*. But if no *Divines, Physicians, or Lawyers*, were to receive any Profits, Fees, or Rewards (on this side the Grave) for the Discharge of their respective Functions — 'Tis to be fear'd, that *Few Men* (of the many who are necessary in each Profession, *meerly* out of a Sense of *Duty*, and a *Publick Spirit* for doing Good, and in Hopes *only* of a Reward at the *GREAT DAY* of Retribution) would spend their *Money and Time*, in the *Study and Practice*, of either of those Honourable and Necessary Professions, altho' thereby they should highly promote the *Common Good*, of their *KING and COUNTRY*.

INTEREST hath the like *powerful Influence* upon the *Courtier* and the *Clown*, the *Merchant* and *Mechanick*, the *Citizen*, and the *Farmer*; 'Tis INTEREST in *Pay, Plunder, and Prizes*, which animates the *Soldier* and the *Sailor*—and not in *Great Britain* on-

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y, but in all other Civiliz'd Nations upon Earth,
hath *INTEREST* a mighty Power, over all Ranks and
Qualities, all Orders, Degrees, and Conditions of Men,
from the Sovereign to the Slave.

My Lords, From your Lordships long Experience in
Publick Affairs, your Honours well know, that when-
soever the most necessary Publick Occasions, require the
Assistance of many Rich Men, Motives must be pro-
pos'd to them, from *INTEREST*, as well as Duty, to
engage them to advance their Money in the Service of
their KING and COUNTRY. —

But I beseech your Lordships not to think, that by
what I have said, relating to *INTEREST*, I do intend
to charge all Men with being influenc'd by a *Corrupt
Self-Interest*; for that in me, wou'd be both *uncharitable*
and *unjust*; because I know, that every Man, is in
Duty bound, by all lawful Means, consistent with the
Publick Good, to advance his own *private Interest*; and
therein he may be justly said to obey, that Divine Au-
thority, which commands — *If thou be wise, thou
shalt be wise for thyself*, Prov. 9. 12.

My Lords, In this Proposal I have endeavour'd, not
only to reconcile *Private Gain*, with the *Publick Good*;
but also that the particular Profits, of this Corporation,
may be so interwoven with Great Britain's general Good,
that by the same Measures, wherewith this Political
Body, doth honestly promote their own *private Inte-
rest*, they shall at the same time, and by the very same
Measures, much more advance, the *Common Good* of
both KING and KINGDOM.

My Lords, The principal Considerations, or Rea-
sons upon which this Proposal is grounded, and the
many National Benefits, which may be the probable
Effects of such an Establishment, are particularly
mention'd in this annex'd Discourse; and I do most
humbly beseech your Honours Perusal and Considera-

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tion thereof, which are the Result of several Years Thoughts upon this Subject, in which I have had the Assistance of many Tracts, formerly writ (and some of them by very Great Men) in relation to the *Relieving*, and *Employing the Poor*, under one New General Law; And I do particularly confess, that I have been herein much assisted, by those *three Bills*, relating to the *Poor*, which the House of Lords, in 1704. order'd to be publish'd.

My Lords, Notwithstanding this Corporation may (in their first Year) receive *Fifteen hundred thousand Pounds*, from the *Poors Rates*, *Occasional Charities*, and *Forfeitures* to the *Poor*, yet it's probable, they will be oblig'd (their first Year) to borrow several Millions Sterling, towards Buying of Ships, and other Vessels, and for Purchasing, and Renting Lands and Houses. and Buying Food and Raiment, and all other Necessaries, and proper Conveniences, for the *Poor* under their Authority, before they can have all Necessaries, and proper Conveniences of Life, arising from their own Estates, and the Labour of those who shall be under their Government—Yet I will be oblig'd (*under the Hazard of the severest Censure*) to prove, by very probable Arguments, that this Corporation, within seven Years after their Establishment, will have (at least) *Three Millions Sterling per Ann.* Revenue; and such a Revenue, as will annually increase. —And that before the Expiration of fifteen Years, they will be capable of discharging all their Debts, and then have moreover in Stock, some Millions Sterling, the greatest Part of which, will then be *Great Britain's* Common Stock, and subject only to the Disposition of the Legislature.—

My Lords, If your Lordships shall think this Proposal worthy your Honours Considerations, and shall command me to lay before your Lordships, the *Manner* *HON^r* this Corporation can employ the *Poor* of *Great Britain*,

Britain, to such *Beneficial National Purposes*, and thereby not injure any *General Interest*, either of *Land*, or *Trade*—— I will then obey such your Honours Command, and therein I shall be more particular, as to the Employing of the *Poor*, than I think fit now to publish; before what I have already writ upon this Subject, hath been consider'd by your Lordships, or some other of our *Noble and Honourable Senators*, to whose *Great Judgment*, all *private Opinions* must submit ——

My Lords, All the Populace, both young and old, under the Jurisdiction of this Corporation, will be rightly inform'd of the *Reasonableness*, *Justice*, and *Necessity* of our *Late Revolution*, and our *Present Settlement*; and that the *Subversion* of our *Present Government*, must necessarily destroy our *Religion*, *Laws*, and *Liberties*. ——

When the Judgment of our Populace shall by their Teachers, be therein rightly inform'd, and their *Zeal* for His Majesty's Service, shall proceed from a *Knowledge* and *Sense* of their *Duty*, to both *GOD* and the *KING*,—then that Loyal Veneration for His Majesty's Sacred Person, and Royal Family, will be *lasting* —— Whereas a *Noisy, Ignorant Pretence to Loyalty*, which is purchas'd by *Drinking, Feasting, and Huzzabing*, continues no longer, than the Meat is in their Mouths, and the Liquor in their Heads; and he who last treats them, to an Excess of *Riot*, is by them then esteem'd (whilst in their Cups) the best *Patriot*, and truest *Churchman* — And whilst that Argument lasts [the Strength of their Liquor] their Actions may be influenc'd to the vilest Purposes.—But a *sober, well-inform'd, ingenious, and industrious Commonalty*, will be Temptation-proof against being brib'd by drunken Treats, to sell their *Religion, Liberties, and Laws*, to those vile *Parricides*, who would raise their Fortunes, upon the Ruins of their Country; and therefore sell
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(or from private Pique sacrifice) the same, to a *perfidious, cruel, attainted Romish Traytor.*

My Lords, *Great Britain* is capable of making *Numbers* of People much more *Beneficial*, than any other *KINGDOM*, or *STATE*, in *Christendom*. For notwithstanding *France* contains near three Times the Number of Acres which are in *Great Britain*, yet from thence the *French* have no Advantage over us, because that *Improveable Land*, which this Island contains, is capable of being made *productive* of more *Food*, and Materials for *Raiment*, than will maintain double the Number of People which *now* are, or (probably) ever will be, in the Kingdom of *France*; where that *Spiritual Curse* of *POPERTY*, is about *Twenty Millions Sterling* per Annum Charge, and Loss, to that unhappy Nation. For there are *Two hundred and fifty thousand* Priests, Regulars, and Seculars, and *Three hundred and fifty thousand* Boys, and Youths, intended for that Priesthood. — In *France* there are 778 Religious Houses for Men, and 222 Nunneries, of both Sorts a thousand. In that Nation there are an *Hundred thousand* Nuns, and *One hundred and twenty thousand* Girls, and young *Gentlewomen* more, intended for such *Jephtha-Sacrifices*, and consequently both they who are, and those who are intended to be Nuns, are thereby debar'd from Answering the *First*, and Principal Design of their Creation.

The *Superstition* of their *RELIGION* obligeth *France* to keep (at least) *Fifty Holy Days* more than we are bound to keep; and ev'ry such Day, wherein no Work is done, is *One hundred and twenty thousand Pounds* Loss, to that deluded People. — It wou'd be endless, to mention all those *Pious Frauds*, whereby their *Cunning Priests* defraud their *Abus'd Laiety*, of what those *Juggling, Spiritual Cheats*

Cheats much more desire, than the *Salvation* of their Souls — These (*falsly* call'd) *Apostolick Successors*, are the *Reverse* to that Great Apostle, who tells the *Corinthians*, *I seek not YOURS, but YOU*; [not their *Money*, but *SALVATION*;] but these modern, pretended Successors, by their Actions plainly prove, that they design to *FLEECE*, but not to *FEED*, that ignorant Flock, committed to their Care.

My Lords, If by making this Proposal [for *Relieving, Reforming, and Employing the Poor*] in the Form of an *Abstracted Bill*, I do give Offence to any of our *Noble, and Honourable Senators*, I do then most humbly beg Pardon, of both those *August Assemblies*, and in particular of your Lordships, altho' what I did therein, was only humbly propos'd, as an *Imperfect Essay*, and intended only to make that propos'd Scheme the more plain, to all such, as might peruse the same; and I have printed only some few of those, and not for *common Sale*; but for the Information of some particular Gentlemen, to whose Discretion I shall submit, either their Communicating them, to some *Lords and Commons*, or otherwise to use them, as they shall think fit. But if upon your Honours Perusal, I shall receive your Lordships Commands, to prevent any further Publication, I will therein obey your Honours Pleasure, when known; for I desire to do nothing herein contrary to the Commands of that just Authority, wherewith *PROVIDENCE* hath blest *Great Britain*.

My Lords,

I shall conclude with my hearty Prayer, *That the RELIGIOUS REFORMATION, and CHARITABLE RELIEF of our miserable and corrupted Populace, may move the SOLE FOUNTAIN of all HAPPINESS, to pour down upon His MAJESTY'S*
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Sacred Person, *His Royal Descendents, and all His Senators and Subjects, the Chiefest of all Blessings, both Spiritual and Temporal; and after a long Possession of both in this World, may, both KING and People (at last) be crown'd with Eternal Glory, in the Next.*

This, My Lords, is the sincere Desire of

Your LORDSHIPS,

Most Humble,

A N D

Most Obedient Servant,

Laurence Braddon

TO ALL

LOYAL BRITONS;

Who { Honour their King,
Love their Country; and,
Have Universal Charity for the Persons, of
Whigs and Tories, Protestants, and Pa-
pists, Turks and Jews [for all Man-
kind] when in Distress.



Y POOR in General (in the Title and Discourse annex'd) are meant, not only they who are CHARGEABLE to their respective Parishes, but ALL those also, who MUST Work, Beg, or Steal, (or take some other vicious Course for Bread.) or STARVE.

By UNPROFITABLE Poor, are meant those, who may be term'd SUPER-NUMERARIES in any Mechanical Trades or Manual Occupations, or in providing, Selling, or dressing EATABLES, DRINKABLES or WEARABLES.

In Twelve Parishes (within the Bills of Mortality) there are suppos'd to be **TEN THOUSAND** Ale-houses, Coffee-houses, Brandy-shops and Chandlers-shops, whereas **ONE TENTH PART** of them, might sell AS MUCH, as ALL of them now do.

Within the Bills of Mortality, there are believ'd to Inhabit near **TWELVE HUNDRED THOUSAND**; and of these, there are (at least) **ONE HUNDRED** and **TWENTY THOUSAND** Unprofitable, tho' Capable POOR; who do not add One Penny per Annum to the Nation's Wealth; but are Capable of producing, above **TWO MILLION** Sterling per Annum in Local and Universal Wealth for their Countries Common Good.

But **NO PERSONS** are intended to be COMPELL'D, to live under the Government of this propos'd Corporation, but **SUCH**, as by proper Authority shall be sent, or **THEY**, who shall **VOLUNTARILY** Contract to live under their Government.

Experience proves, That most Performances are received, according to that Opinion which the World hath of their Authors; and where an Hatred or Contempt, is (tho' unjustly) taken up against an Author, no Arguments from him, will make any impression upon Persons so prejudiced; for their prejudices against the Author, do prevent such considerations of his Arguments, as are necessary to work a Conviction. As a disagreeable Vehicle will prevent, the kindly Operation of the most proper Physick; for the Stomach (from its Aversion to that

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Vehicle) will soon eject, both *Vehicle* and *Physick*, and not suffer it to remain so long in the Stomach, as was absolutely necessary to work a Cure. *Histories*, both *Sacred* and *Civil*, give many Instances to prove, that TRUTHS (of the greatest Consequence) have been rejected with Scorn, from those undeserved Prejudices, which have been taken up against their Authors. — But it would be happy for the World, if the Reason of the Thing, was submitted to, from whomsoever it comes. That Legislator, whom God himself had inspired, followed the Counsel of an Heathen, in Matters of the greatest Importance, *Exod.* 18. 17. And a little CITY was prefer'd from a powerful ARMY, by the Counsel of a poor Inhabitant; but the Ingratitude of those then in Power, prov'd, that they themselves were scarce worth saving, *Ecl.* 9. 14, 15. And I can give an Instance to shew, where one of the greatest Statesmen in Europe (in that Age wherein he liv'd) submitted to the Judgment of a common Picklock Rogue, and in relation to Matters of State, and of that Consequence as (probably) then saved all Europe, from being Inslaved by Spain. And I can give another Example to prove, that an experienc'd and brave Admiral, and many stout Commanders, thought a certain Project impracticable, and therefore resolv'd to make no Attempt; but by a common Young Saylor, were soon convinced of their Mistake, and, according to that Young Man's Scheme, succeeded in that Attempt. And I can prove by a third Particular, That a Private Centinel (upon the Close of a Sermon) in the Church convinc'd, a very Popular Preacher, That he was mistaken in his Doctrine, and very unjust in his Application; and that what the Doctor had condemn'd as a Damnable Sin, was (in Truth) an incumbent Duty, and by the Doctor himself must have been practis'd, upon the like Occasion. It would enlarge this Epistle, much beyond its intended Brevity, to give the Relations at large, of these three last mentioned Instances; but I shall readily (by Conversation) satisfy any Gentleman's Curiosity, who shall (in proper Time and Place) desire to be very particularly inform'd, in Relation thereunto.

I have this reasonable Request to make, to all such as shall read this short Treatise, that they would not (upon a cursory reading thereof) conclude this propos'd Scheme to be Impracticable: For if the Settling, Relieving, Reforming, and Employing the Poor, have occasioned above Forty Statutes (since the 14th of Eliz. when the First Act pass'd, for Relieving the Poor) and ALL those Laws have not Effectually Answer'd their Principal Intentions; because we see, that the MISERIES and MISCHIEFS, occasion'd by the Poor, Daily increase. It's therefore reasonable to think, that SUCH a Bill, as shall effectually Answer, all the good Purposes of those numerous Laws, must be many Times read, and very sedately Consider'd, before any well-grounded Judgment can be made thereof.

I do assure the Reader, that this Subject I have many Years Study'd, and have bought and read all the Discourses, I could (upon repeated Inquisitions) find, which Treated, either of Relieving, Reforming, or Employing the Poor. And so I have

men have publish'd, upon ALL these Subjects: And I have study'd this Matter with a *Longing Desire*, to find out, the most *proper Expedients*, for these two following *National* and *Charitable Purposes*, (*viz.*)

First, *How all POOR BRITONS (of all Denominations) may be made Happy in themselves.* And,

Secondly, *How they may become, most servicable to their King and Country.*

The studying of this Subject hath occasionally been some Hundred of Pounds loss to me, in my private Affairs: But I would gladly suffer an Imprisonment for Life, if I could thereby occasionally make the Miserable Poor so *Happy in themselves*, and so *serviceable* to both KING and *Kingdom*, as (I think) they are capable of being made; when our Legislature shall think fit, to pass *One Effectual, General Bill, for Relieving, Reforming, and Emyloying, all the Poor of Great Britain.*

And such an Imprisonment, I would much rather suffer, than get *Ten Thousand Pounds per Annum*, and the Poor to continue so Corrupted, and Miserable, as they now are.

Altho, I've an Honour for the Memories of those *brave Romans*, who lov'd their Country, much better than themselves: Yet I have stood Amaz'd, to hear Gentlemen say, *That none have Equall'd them, in such their love for their Country.* Whereas many Examples are Recorded (both under the *Law* and *Gospel*) for our *Instruction* and *IMMITATION*; which (all Things considered) have in some Respects, exceeded the *Romans* Zeal, for their Countries Good. To give some few Instances thereof; When the *Jews* were in actual Rebellion, to destroy both *MOSES* and *AARON*, yet, even then, those two *Publick Spirited PATRIOTS*, in a most humble and compassionate Manner, implored God's Pardon for such their Mortal Enemies; and *Aaron* himself (at *Moses's* Command) then expos'd himself to the most dangerous and contagious Plague, to prevent such their Enemies Destruction. Vide *Numbers* the 16th, throughout.

Holy *DAVID* (when Young) without *Armour* or *Arms*, out of a courageous Zeal to save his Country, encounter'd and destroy'd the daring *Goliath*, (*CHAMPION* of the *Philistines*) who had such *Armour*, and *Arms*, such Courage and Bodily Strength, as was sufficient (in all human Appearance) to have destroy'd Twenty such Youths, as *David* then appeared to be.

And the same Holy *DAVID* (when King) Pray'd *That himself and Family might be Sacrificed, rather than his own Life (by the Destruction of his Innocent Subjects) should be spar'd*, 2 Sam. 24. 17.

And *JOAB*, (his General) express a noble and courageous Zeal, to serve his Country; and an entire Submission to the Will of God, when he Encourag'd his Army, with this short, but moving Speech, *Be of good Courage, and let us play the Men, for our People, and the Cities of our God; and the Lord do that which seemeth him Good*, 2 Sam. 10. 12.

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Queen **HESTER** (out of love to her own People) reioleurely Transgress the Positive Decree of an Absolute Monarch, when Death was expected for that Attempt; and this considerably done by her, under the following Resignation to the Divine Will. *If I perish, I perish*, *Hest.* 4. 18. The **MACCABEES** shew'd as great Zeal for their Country's Service, as the bravest **Roman** had ever done in serving his Country.

The *Apostles* themselves (out of Love to Mankind, especially their own Country-men) exposed themselves to Persecution and Death, to save their very *Persecutors* themselves, from eternal Destruction.

And St. **Stephen** himself, with his last Breath (whilst under the most exquisite Pains) Pray'd for his very Murderers, *That such their Sin, might not be laid to their Charge*, *Acts* 7. 60. And St. **Paul**, was content not only to suffer Imprisonment, but Death it self, for his own Country-men; and this done by him, when those his Enemies were conspiring his Death, *Acts* 21. 14.

But above all, our **BLESSED LORD**, by his **LIFE**, and **DEATH**, shew'd such a love for Mankind. as none ever did, or possibly ever can parallel. And his *Great Example* of Love (as far as it is possible for us, to imitate) we ought to follow; for he hath expressly Commanded us, twice (in one Verse) *To love one another, as he hath loved us*. Even so to love one another, *John* 13. 34. — But to return to the Poor.

About Fifty Years since, Sir **MATTHEW HALE** (once Lord Chief Justice of *England*) Writ a little Tract, upon *Relieving and Employing the Poor*; and therein observes, *That a due Care of the Poor is an Act of GREAT PIETY towards Almighty God; an Act of the GREATEST HUMANITY among Men; and of great CIVIL PRUDENCE and POLITICAL WISDOM, in Relation to the State.* — But as *Things now are* (sayeth his Lordship) *our Populousness, which might be made the Greatest Blessing a Kingdom can have, becomes a Burden to the Nation; by breeding up whole Races, Families and Generations, in a meer Trade of Idleness, Thieving and Begging, and a barbarous kind of Life; which must in Time, prodigiously Increase, and Over run the whole Face of the Kingdom, and EAT OUT the very Heart thereof.*

Above Forty Years since, Sir **JOSIAH CHILD**, an ingenious Gentleman, Writ upon *Relieving and Employing the Poor*; and therein observes, that our then Laws (relating thereunto) were very Deficient. But (sayeth that Gentleman) if the Defect be in our Laws, how shall we find a Remedy, which may be Rational and Consistent? *This I confess (sayeth the same Author) is an hard and difficult Question: It is one of the Ardua Regni, and may very well deserve the Consideration of our wisest Counsellors? And if a whole Session of Parliament was Employed on this singular Concern, I think it would be Time spent, as much to the Glory of God, and good of the Nation, as in any Thing, wherein Noble and Worthy PATRIOTS of their Country, could be Engag'd.* A

*A Brief Account of what was done
by both Lords and Commons in
1704. for reducing all Laws rela-
ting to the POOR, into one Bill.*

Notwithstanding the numerous Laws, (relating to the Poor) the Miseries and Mischiefs (occasion'd by the Poor) daily increasing, both LORDS and COMMONS, in 1704, seem'd resolv'd to pass ONE GENERAL LAW for *Settling, Relieving and Employing* the POOR; and by that intended Law to repeal all the Statutes relating thereunto.

The then HOUSE of COMMONS did therefore pass a Bill for that very purpose, wherein *Twenty Four* Statutes, or part of as many Acts, were intended to be repealed.— And the Preamble of that Bill sets forth, *That—Whereas the making Provision for the Poor is highly acceptable to Almighty God, on whose Blessing the Prosperity and Happiness of the Nation doth entirely depend—And forasmuch as the Laws and Statutes of this Realm heretofore made, relating hereunto, are become very numerous, and in some parts thereof difficult to be understood, and put in Execution by inferior Officers, and are so defective in several Particulars, whereby the Necessity, Numbers, and continual Increase of the Poor, through the whole Kingdom of England, and Dominion of Wales, is become very great, and exceeding burdensom. For Remedy whereof, and to the end that one General Law may be established, for the more effectual Relief, Employment, and Settlement of the Poor, which will greatly tend to the Honour of Religion, and*

*the publick Benefit and Advantage of this Kingdom—
Be it therefore enacted, &c.*

The then Lords Commissioners of Trade having drawn the Scheme of an Act, for that very Design; the House of Lords commanded them to lay that Scheme before their Lordships, which was done accordingly.——

And some of the Judges, that Session, presented to the House of Lords a *Supplemental Bill* to the Laws then in force relating to the Poor, to make those Laws more effectual. But these three Bills not coming before the Lords until late in that Session,—therefore their Lordships pass'd neither of them; but by the following Order commanded all those three Bills should then be printed and published.

Die Martis, 6 Martii 1704.

U*Pon the second Reading the Bill, entitled, An Act for the Relief, Employment, and Settlement of the Poor, which came from the House of Commons; the House judging it impracticable to go through a Bill of that length, which came up so late in the Session, with that Care and Consideration which was necessary for a Bill of that Importance and universal Concern; It is ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, That the said Bill shall be printed and published. And also the Bill began in this House, entitled, An Act for the farther Relief, Employment and Maintenance of the Poor. And the Scheme of An Act concerning the Poor, delivered into the House this Day from the Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, as drawn by them.*

Mat. Johnson, Cler. Parliament.

There were many excellent Things design'd by those Bills; but nevertheless it was found, that the Methods propos'd by those Bills, for Employing the Poor,

Poor, would not have answer'd the main Design thereof: For the principal Methods intended by that Bill which pass'd the House of Commons, and of that which was drawn by the Commissioners of Trade, were these, (*viz.*)

That the Officers of every Parish might employ all those who received Relief, whether marry'd or unmarried, upon any Sort of Manufactures whatsoever. And they might Hire ingenious Artists to instruct those Poor in the several Manufactures. And the Overseers were empower'd to buy Wool, Hemp, Flax, Leather, Iron, or any other Materials to be wrought up, and thereupon to Employ their Poor. And when such Goods were manufactur'd, those Officers were empower'd to sell them to whomsoever would buy them; and out of that Money to deduct all their Charges relating thereunto, and then the NEAT PRODUCE was to be accounted the Parish-Money, and to be apply'd towards lessening the Parish Poor-Rates. And those Parish-Officers were empower'd to rent Houses, or build Houses upon waste Lands, for the Habitations of their Poor.

These Methods of Employing the Poor must have been very destructive to the industrious Manufacturers and honest Shop-keepers, or otherwise they would have increas'd the Poor-Rates in all Parts of England.

For if the Goods thus to be made by the Parish-Poor had been well manufactur'd, and could have been afforded Cheaper than other industrious Mechanicks could make, or honest Shop-keepers could sell the like Goods then both the industrious Mechanick would be depriv'd of his Labour, and the Shop-keeper of his Trade. For all Men would have bought those Goods which were well made, and could be afforded cheapest. And so the Parish-Officers would have engross'd the Trade. But if the
Goods

Goods thus to be made by the Parish-Poor, could not have been sold so cheap by their Parish-Officers, as the like Goods made by other industrious Mechanicks then must those Parish-Goods have lain upon the Hands of their Parish-Officers, or been sold by them to the Loss of their Parish. And in either Case have added a New-Charge to their Poor-Rates.

I know that several Gentlemen have writ upon this Subject [*of Relieving and Employing the Poor under ONE General Law*] and that they have proposed very different Methods in relation thereunto: And I have collected all those Discourses, which I could ever meet with upon this Subject. And after many Years considering the Premises, I have borrow'd from all of them, and farther added what (in my Judgment) might best answer these two following charitable and beneficial Purposes, (*viz.*)

First, *How the now Poor and Miserable Britons may be made Happy in themselves.* And,

Secondly, *How they may become most Serviceable to their KING and COUNTRY.*

The following SCHEME, which is humbly propos'd for *Relieving, Reforming, and Employing the POOR*, is principally grounded upon these Reasons or Considerations following, (*viz.*)

1. That POPULOUSNESS, ARTS and INDUSTRY, are three *necessary* Qualifications to make any Kingdom or State RICH and POWERFUL.

2. That *Numbers of People* bred up in *Ignorance, Idleness, and Begging*, and many other Vices; and particularly corrupted with false and seditious *antichristian Prejudices* against their Governours and the PERSONS of their Fellow-Subjects, may be made, (by *traiterous and artful Management*) the greatest Charge
and

and *Curse*, and may produce the most dangerous and **SURPRISING MISCHIEFS**, which can befall any Kingdom or State.

3. That the most probable way to prevent a general *Corruption of Manners*, and a *Disaffection to the State*, in our **POPULACE**, is to prevent *Idleness*, *Poverty*, and a *loose Education* in our Youth—And particularly instructing all of them (of what Opinion soever in Matters of Religion) that it is an incumbent Duty upon them all, to have a loyal Veneration for his Majesty's Person and Royal Family, and a *charitable Disposition* towards the Persons of all their Fellow-Subjects, of what Opinions soever they are—And that, whensoever their (supposed) **ZEAL** for that Opinion, or **CHURCH**, whereunto they belong, begets in them an Hatred of the Persons of those they differ from—then that *intemperate Heat* is not kindled by the **FATHER** of *Love*, and **GOD** of all Mercies, but by that **ACCURSED SPIRIT**, who (from the Creation) hath prosecuted a **CONTINUED HATRED** against *Mankind*.

4. That a *Religious*, *Ingenious*, and *Industrious* Education of the *meaner Commonalty* and *poorer Sort* [the very **HANDS** and **FEET** of every Kingdom and State] is the most probable Means to make them *Sober*, *Ingenious*, and *Industrious*, and both **ABLE** and **WILLING** to discharge their respective Duties to their **GOD**, their **KING**, and their **COUNTRY**, in their several and respective Stations.—This would mightily conduce towards promoting the **COMMON GOOD** of both **PRINCE** and **PEOPLE**. For,

5. The **PROSPERITY** of every Kingdom and State consists in this, (*viz.*) That in the whole **SUBORDINATION** from Head to Foot [from the **SUPREAM MAGISTRATE**, to the meanest Servant] **ALL**

ALL PERSONS, Men, Women, and Children (of any Years and Discretion) be duly qualified for, and diligently exercised in, that Station or Business whereunto they respectively belong.

6. That its both our *Duty* and *Interest*, that no Poor Briton should by *Necessity* be forc'd to **BEG** or **STEAL**, or take any other vicious Course for Bread.—

7. That it's our *Interest*, that none of our Commonalty, who are willing to work, should on working Days be oblig'd to be **IDLE**—But that all such Persons, of both Sexes, and all Capacities, may at all times know where they may be received and employ'd.

8. That such of the Poor who are *able*, but *unwilling* to work, by proper *Encouragements* should be persuaded, or by **WHOLESOME SEVERITIES COMPELL'D** to labour, according to their respective Capacities.

9. The Poor-Rates, occasional Charities, and Forfeitures to the Poor, are suppos'd to be 1,500,000 *l. per Annum*, and one half thereof will pay the Rent of all that Land which may be sufficient (with good Husbandry) to produce all things necessary, for **FOOD** and **RAYMENT** for all our Poor.

10. That the remaining half of our annual Payments to the Poor, will be sufficient **TOTALLY** to discharge (in Fifteen Years) both Principal and Interest of that Money, which this propos'd Corporation may be oblig'd (at first) to borrow, towards building those Collegiate Cities, which may be necessary, and buying of Shipping, and all those Necessaries and Conveniences of Life for the Poor, and paying Wages to those Workmen and Sailors which that Corporation must first hire, before their own Poor can be fed and cloathed, from their own Labour

bour, and the Produce of their own Estates ; and before such Buildings, and all other Services can be perform'd by their own Members.

11. That our *chargeable* and *unprofitable* Poor *Britons*, are suppos'd to be *Fifteen Hundred Thousand* Souls, and that not above one *Fifth* part of them, thro' *Infancy*, *Age*, or *infirmities* are (at all times) incapable of Labour.

12. That 600 Thousand of those Chargeable and Unprofitable Poor, are sufficient to be employ'd in *Husbandry*, *Gardening*, and all Mechanical Trades and Manual Occupacions, and as Sailors, &c. for providing, or fetching all the *Necessaries*, and suitable Conveniences of Life, for all those 15 hundred Thousand Chargeable and Unprofitable Poor. — And then according to this Supposition :

13. We shall receive (after some Years Settlement) as clear Gain (for this Corporation, and *Great Britain's* COMMON GOOD) the good Fruits of Six Hundred Thousand Capable Poor's Labour — All which are now either *chargeable*, or *unprofitably Employ'd*. And each of these 600 Thousand Poor, (whose Labour will be then thus gain'd) will be under the Judicious Management of this propos'd Corporation, and every one of these 600 Thousand capable Men, Women and Children, (one with another) will get at least *Twelve Pounds per Annum* ; for tho' some of these Women and Children may not (one with another) get *Five Pounds per Annum*, yet more in Number, of those Capable Poor, will ad (in *LOCAL*, or *UNIVERSAL WEALTH*) *thirty Pounds per Head per Annum*.

14. By *LOCAL WEALTH*, I mean what is *fixt* to the Place, and not *removeable* ; as *Lands* and *Houses*, or Improvements of *Lands*, by Building, Husbandry, Gardening, or the like ; or making Rivers Navigable,

ble, or making Roads, which are now very bad; then not only *passable*, but *pleasant* to the Travellers, or by any other Ways or Means, whereby some particular Parts of *Great Britain* may be very much Improv'd.

15. By *Universal Wealth* I do intend, any sort of Personal Chattels, such as Money or Plate, or any sort of Stocks, within Doors or without, or Shipping, or any Goods, Wares or Merchandize, of what Nature or Kind soever.

16 When not less than *Six Thousand* capable Poor live together, in one *Collegiate City*, or *Town*, and all *Manufactures* and Manual Occupacions, wherein they shall be respectively Employ'd, shall be *SUB-DIVIDED* into as many Branches as possible, and each Person *ONLY* employ'd in that Part or Branch, which his, or her Capacity can best perform—These *Six Thousand* so judiciously manag'd, shall do *more Work*, and that Work *much better*, than *Nine Thousand* Poor now do, in such *Manufactures* and Manual Occupacions, when they live (as now they do) Two in one House, and Three in another, &c. and sometimes far distant from each other—And when the very same Person is now employ'd, not only in several Branches of the same *Manufactures*; but sometimes that *VERY Man* is a *Brick-maker*, *Bricklayer*, a *Plasterer*, a *Quarry-Man*, a *Mason*, a *Pavior* (or *Pitcher*) a *Tyler*, and an *Husband-Man*—And the same Person is now a *Carpenter*, a *Joiner*, (both for House and Shop-Work) a *Turner*, a *Carver*, a *Wheel-wright*, a *Mill-wright*, a *Lath-maker* and an *Husband-Man*. The like may be instanc'd in relation to many other Trades. —

And for the Truth of this last Observation, [as to the Benefit of sub dividing all Mechanical Trades and Manual Occupacions into as many Branches as possible, and keeping each Person to one Part *ONLY*

I dare be bound to produce it under the Hands of the most ingenious Men of all Mechanicks, and Manual Occupations, now in *England*.

In Relation to this Matter, I do confess my self oblig'd to some of the most Skilful Mechanicks in all Manufactures whatsoever, in *Wool, Silk, Cotton, Flax, Hemp, Silver, Copper, Brass, Iron, Steel*, and all other Sorts of Metals; and in *Wood, Ivory, Bone*, and all other Materials whatsoever now wrought up, into what is *necessary* or useful, both for our own Use, and Foreign Markets—But no private Person can put such Beneficial Methods in Practice [of subdividing all Manufactures into as many Branches as possible] unless they were certain always to have Employments for many Hundred Hands, which very few particular Men, *at all Times* and Seasons, in Peace and War, are certain to have; but this propos'd Corporation (if ever establish'd) will always have (after some few Years Settlement) above a Million of People under their Authority, and in constant Employ.

17. And by this gainful Method of Employing the Poor, the Labours of Three Hundred Thousand capable Persons will (in Effect) be gain'd to the Nation; and such mighty Gains may be modestly computed at *Three Millions Sterling* per Ann. in *Locals* or *universal* Wealth, for *Great Britain's* COMMON GOOD.

18. But great Care ought to be taken (by that Corporation) in the Employment of their Poor, not **THEREBY** to deprive other Industrious Poor, of any part of their *Work* or *Wages*; for then by making the *now idle Industrious*, we should make the *now-Industrious idle*, and therein the Remedy would be worse than the Disease — But all the Poor, under the Government of that Corporation, ought to be employ'd in **SUCH A MANNER** as may best advance every general Interest of both **LAND** and **TRADE** throughout *Great Britain*.

(41)
19. That our Poor ought chiefly to be employ'd in such a Manner as may most probably promote our EXPORTS, from whence ONLY we can increase our GOLD and SILVER.

20. That such Exports are best promoted by enabling our Merchants to *under-Sell* all Europe in Foreign Markets — For the lowest Rate (where Goodness is equal) gives the price to the Market.

21. That (in the present Coarse of Trade) the dearness of Wool, and some other Materials us'd in that Manufacture, and the many Impositions upon several necessarys and conveniencies of Life do very much tend to raise the Price of Woolen Manufactures, and consequently (in a Degree) prevent the Exportation.

22. It is therefore, for the Interest of that Trade, (as it now stands) that Wool should be cheap, and that all those last mention'd Impositions should be discharg'd as soon as they can be justly paid off, and Publick Credit therein preserv'd.

23. In the present State of Trade, both our Merchants and Cloathiers are for lowering the Price of Wool, and lessening the Workmens Wages, as necessary to make our Woolen Manufactures as cheap in Foreign Markets, as are Rivals in Trade, can afford the like Goods — But by this propos'd Method of employing the Poor, our Wool shall still bear a good Price, and our Manufactures receive the best Wages in Europe, and yet our Merchants shall be then enabled to under Sell both Dutch and French, in Foreign Markets — Because from the Labours of the now chargeable or unprofitable Poor, so much per Cent. may then be Given our Merchants (and in such Goods as themselves shall choose) for what they shall bona fide Export — That such Goods, so given, shall more than countervail all Advantages which French or Dutch now have, either from their Workmens poor Wages, or their Merchants low Freight.

And

And then *such an Employment of our Poor, which keeps up Wool and Wages*, will therein much advance the Lands of Great-Britain : For every Penny in the Pound in *Wool* (as Shorn) is near *Four Hundred Thousand Pounds* per Ann. Benefit to the *Landed Interest*—And every Penny in the Shilling paid for Work, is (in its Consequences) a much greater Advantage to our *Nobility and Gentry* : For *three Parts* in four of the *Produce of Land*, are bought by those who must *Work, Beg, Steal, or Starve*—And therefore the *Hire* of the *industrious Poor*, doth at last *Center* in the *Purse* of the *Rich*, and thereby secures and raiseth their *Rents*.

24. And whereas the *Charge* of our Poor doth now *increase*, in Proportion to the *decay* of our Trade, especially our *Exports*; for neither Merchants or Shopkeepers are willing to *Buy*, more than they can reasonably hope to *Sell*—So that One Year in *Colchester*, for want of a Demand of their Bayes, their *Weavers* stood still, and their Poor Rates did then increase unto *Fifteen Shillings* in their *Pound-Rate*—But in the Methods herein propos'd, for *Relieving* our Poor, no Decay in Trade shall either raise our Poor-Rates, or cause our Poor to want any Necessaries or proper Conveniencies of Life; because by this *Corporation* the Poor will be then better maintain'd, than any Commonality in Europe now Live; and such their Maintenance will then arise from the *Labour, Art, and Industry* of those *Poor themselves* (under the judicious Management of this Corporation) upon those Corporation Estates, from whence they will be so well maintain'd.

25. But *none* of the *Produce* of those Corporation Estates must be then sold, for therein the *Landed Interest* would be much prejudic'd, because that Corporation may probably have the Labour of above *Six Hundred Thousand industrious Men, Women, and Children, for Nothing* : And therefore they could manage
thoie

those Estates, upon *such Terms*, as would enable them to sell *Cattle, Butter, Cheese, Corn, Hay*, and all other Produce from Land, *much cheaper than our industrious Farmers could sell the like Goods*, and thereby they would soon lower the Rents of our Nobility and Gentry, throughout *Great-Britain*.

26. That such a particular Regard ought to be had to our *Saylers*, that no *Prince* or *State* in Europe, shall give them so great Encouragements to desert our Service, as those *Saylers* themselves shall *here* receive, to continue true to the Interest of their *King* and *Country*.

27. That 'tis for the Interest of both *Prince* and *People*, that our *Royal Navy* (upon all necessary Occasions) should be soon Mann'd with well-affected, and well disciplin'd *Volunteers*; and that at the *same time* our *Merchants* themselves should be supply'd, upon reasonable Terms, *with able Saylers*.

28. That 'tis for *Great-Britain's Interest* to have many *Publick Granaries*, well stor'd with Grain of all Sorts; so that in times of *Dearth*, we may not be forc'd to pay Money to *Strangers*, for the support of Life; and for want of Corn, many Thousands of our most *useful Poor*, may otherwise perish in such a Distress.

29. That it would mightily advance our Trade, both *Domestick* and *Foreign*, and be of great Service to the poorer Sort, that Money (which now is the necessary Means of *Trade* and *Life*) should be here lent upon *Pledges*, at as *reasonable* a Rate, as our most prudent Neighbours can be supply'd on Pawns.

We should not encourage the coming of Foreign Poor, until we have made proper Provision for *all our own*—But when that Provision is made.

30. We may then make every *capable Foreigner* (one with another) who shall live with us, worth to *Great-Britain* (at least) *Twelve Pounds* per Ann. and we shall
then

then give no Cause of Complaint to the Poor of *Great-Britain*, because our own Poor will then see, that *they themselves*, as well as our *Rich*, will receive great Benefits from those naturaliz'd Foreigners.

31. When this propos'd Corporation is establish'd, and consequently all the Poores Children to be *soberly* and *industriously Educated*, under that Authority, *without any Charge to the Publick, or their Parents*; then it will be *Great-Britain's* Interest to give *all imaginable Encouragement* (especially to the poorer Sort) to *Marry*: Because, then,

32. *Every poor Child* (one with another) which shall be Born with us, will be made more worth to *Great-Britain*, than *Thirty Pounds* — Whereas (under our present unhappy Circumstances, relating to the Poor) many Thousands of these Poor Children now become *miserable* in themselves, an heavy Charge to their *Parish*, or their *Parents*, and too often a *Curse* to their *native Country*.

33. That all imaginable *Precautions* ought to be taken, to *prevent*, or to *detect*, all *Frauds* and *Male-Administrations*, in the Government of this propos'd Corporation.

34. In Order to which, *one, or more general Office*, in each County, is humbly propos'd to be kept, for what relates to such County: And *one General Office*, for all *Great-Britain*, to be kept, in, or near *London*. To which *General Office*, true and fair *Transcripts* should Quarterly be transmitted, from all those County Registers — And a general Liberty given (at proper Seasons) to search at a small Expence) any of those Offices — And the Discovering any *Irregularities, Male-Administrations* or *Frauds* relating thereunto, to be well Rewarded, and exemplary Punishments to be inflicted upon such Transgressors — This general Liberty of Inspection seems reasonable and just; because
every

every *Briton* (from the *Prince* to the *Peasant*) is interested in the *Profits* or *Loss* of this *Corporation*, seeing this Body Politick is only to have a *certain Proportion* of the *Gain* arising from their own Administration; and the remaining clear *Profits* are to be apply'd, as the Legislature shall think fit to appoint, towards discharging those many *just Publick Debts*, which are a Burden upon us all, but the weight thereof is *most sensibly* felt, by our *Industrious Poor*, in all their necessary Disbursements — And for as much as *Interest* is the *main Spring* to all considerable Designs in this World, therefore 'tis humbly propos'd, That

35. All they who shall be the *Principle Promoters* and *Governours* of this propos'd Corporation, shall receive such a Proportion of Profit, for their *Money* and *Time* expended, relating thereunto, as probably may oblige them, and all their subordinate Officers, to be very diligent in their respective Places, seeing by discharging their Duties therein, they will then advance their own private *Interest*, and at the same Time, and by the *same Measures*, promote the *common Good* of their *King* and *Country*.

And for as much, as the *Happiest People* upon Earth, may be soon enslaved by some Foreign well disciplin'd *Armies*, unless their happy Constitution can raise and maintain as great a Power for its Defence — And to the end *Great-Britain* may hereafter Enjoy all the Benefits and Services of numerous and powerful *Fleets* and *Armies*, and yet neither endanger the Constitution in *Church* or *State*, in times of *Peace*, or burden its Inhabitants with their Maintenance, but when such *Fleets* and *Armies* shall be necessarily employ'd in the Service of their *King* and *Country*.

36. Therefore this propos'd Corporation will have such Encouragement for instructing all their Youth, both in *Martial* and *Naval* Discipline, as they may

(within

(within Twenty Days Notice) be capable of raising so many well-affected and well-disciplin'd *Volunteers*, to supply *Fleets* and *Armies*; and that Corporation will also have always ready, such prodigious Quantities of *Naval* and *Warlike* Stores—That (whensoever the Legislature shall command their Service) will be sufficient to give a Check to the Threatning Ambition of any other *Prince* or *State* in *Christendom*. And to the End that those *Volunteers*, *Sailors* and *Soldiers*, may be the more zealous in the Service of their King and Country—They will be well instructed in the *Justice* and *Happiness* of our present *Constitution*—And they will be so well convinc'd of the *Tyranny*, *Slavery* and *Idolatry*, that will attend its Destruction—That such Men (upon just Grounds) will think themselves in *Conscience*, bound to defend their *King* and *Country*, against all their *Enemies*, both *Domestick* and *Foreign*—And whilst these *Soldiers* and *Sailors*, are thus serving the Nation, they will receive *greater Pay* than they now have; and they will farther receive much *greater Encouragements* to behave themselves *well*, than now are (or probably ever will be) given by any other *Prince* or *State* in *Christendom*,

How these *Soldiers* and *Sailors* are to be bred up and Disciplin'd under this Corporation, is very particularly set forth, in a large Discourse just publish'd, Entitl'd, *To pay old Debts, without new Taxes*. And Sold by T. Warner, in *Paternoster-Row*.

And for as much as this Corporation, is humbly propos'd to be made *subservient* to our present Government; therefore that the Powers to them granted, may not endanger either *Church* or *State*, or become oppressive to any other of his Majesty's Subjects, it's further humbly propos'd, That,

36. All their *By-Laws*, and the *principle Parts* of their *Administration*—And—*Abstracted Accounts* of

all their Receipts and Disbursements, and of all their Credits and Effects, should be laid before both Lords and Commons, within Ten Days next after the beginning of every Session, to the End that all their Frauds and Male-Administrations may be soon check'd and punish'd — And that the Nation in general, as well as that Corporation in particular, may receive their respective Proportions, in the clear Gains which shall arise, from thus Relieving, Reforming, and Employing the Poor of Great-Britain.

I must here beg Leave to mention some of the many National Benefits, which may be the probable Effects of this propos'd Corporation.

First, All Poor Britons, who, through Infancy, Age or Infirmities, are incapable of Labour, will be then comfortably maintain'd; and no Person, of what Nation or Religion soever (whilst in Great-Britain) will then by necessity be Compell'd, to beg or steal, for Bread: Because very many Places, in all parts of Great-Britain, will be then appointed, for receiving all miserable People, Natives and Foreigners, and they who bring them, paid for that Charge and Trouble. Whereas at present, in some thousand Instances, the Parish Payments are not sufficient to support their Poor, and therefore those miserable Wretches must supply that Deficiency, by Begging or Stealing; for no Man upon Earth, can suffer himself to Starve, if that can be prevented by Theft, tho' Death was to be the immediate Punishment for the same.

Secondly, Carefully instruct all the Children of the Poor, and all others under the Care of this Corporation, in this Great, but plain (and necessary to be Known) Truth, viz. That

The Christian Religion consists in the Knowledge of the reveal'd Will of God, in the Holy Scriptures, and in Believing and Living conformably thereunto.

And that *nothing is more Antichristian, and contrary to the true Doctrine of the Church of England, than the hatred of Mens Persons, for their being of a different Opinion from the establish'd Doctrine and Discipline of our Church.*—And that all they, who will be *Christians, and True Sons of that Church, not in Name Only, but in Deed and in Truth, must (according to the daily Prayer of our Church) have an Universal Charity, for the Persons of Schismatics, Hereticks, Turks, Jews and Infidels [for All Mankind]*—And if we (*seem to*) pray with our Lips, for those, whom we then hate in our Hearts—such *lying spiteful Lip-Sacrifices, are an Abomination to Him, to whom they are offer'd, and will bring no Blessing, but a Curse upon those Hypocritical Sacrifices.*

Thirdly, Probably reform many thousand of other common Criminals, among the Vulgar, by giving them more Encouragements, and greater human Assurances to reform, than (in the like Cases) are now given by any Prince or State in Europe—But such as Encouragements will not reclaim, will, by Confinement, be restrain'd, from following their old vicious Practices; and they will farther receive such proper Corrections, as may reform them, and deter others from committing the like Vices.

Fourthly, Profitably employ (in the most beneficial Manner, for the common Good of Great-Britain) all those poor of Capacity, who are willing to Work (but at some Seasons can get no Employment) and all those who are idle or unprofitably employ'd)—And principally from all their then Employment, annually to raise some Millions Sterling, clear of all incident Charges whatsoever—And thereby,

Fifthly, Gradually satisfy, and within Twenty Years, totally pay off All our National Debts, altho' these should amount unto Fifty Five Millions Sterling; and thereby discharge most of our present Taxes, upon

Windows, Candles, Coals, Salt, Soap, Leather— And upon several other Necessaries and Conveniencies of Life, And this done, without hurting any general Interest whatsoever; for our very *Annuitants themselves*, by their own *private Interest*, may be prevail'd upon to receive their Money, *before the Expiration of their respective Terms.*

Sixthly, Enable our *British Merchants* to *under-sell* all *Europe* in *Foreign Markets*, notwithstanding the *pinching parsimony* of the *Dutch*, and the *starving Life* of the *French Mechanicks*; *because such large proportions in Goods* (of all Kinds the *best in Europe*) are propos'd to be *given* to our own Merchants, and such Goods as themselves shall chuse (upon their giving *Good Security*, that they will *bona fide* Export what shall be thus given, and what they shall elsewhere buy for that Purpose) which Allowance so given, may be made without any Charge to the Nation—And those Allowances will more than countervail all those Advantages, which either *French* or *Dutch* now have, both from their *Mechanicks* cheap Living, and their Merchants low Freight.

Seventhly, Make the *Fishery*, and its *Freight*, much *cheaper* to this Corporation than they now are, or ever can be to the *Dutch*, because the *Fishery* is upon our own Coasts, for which the *Dutch* must sail some Hundred Miles—And moreover, this Corporation will have more than *Three Hundred Thousand Husbandmen, Gardiners, Mechanicks, and Sailors* (of each Kind the *best in Europe*) *all whose necessaries and conveniencies of Life* will not then cost this Corporation one penny per Annum, beyond the present *Poor-Rates, Occasional Charities, and Forfeitures to the Poor*—Whereas all *Men, Women and Children*, now employ'd in, or relating to the *Dutch Fishery*, may be suppos'd to cost those *Frugal People* (at least) *five Pounds per Head, per Annum*, one with another,

another, in *Diet, Cloaths, Wages, Physick*, and all other necessary and contingent Charges.

Eighthly, Prevent our *Coin* from being Exported, and our *Poor* from Starving, in times of Dearth; because that Corporation (after some few years Establishment) may have *Twenty Millions* worth of Corn and Grain, proper for Food, in their Publick *Granaries*. And such Corn to be so dispos'd of, as not to prejudice that *Landed-Interest*, which doth principally depend upon *Tillage*—Whereas, at the beginning of any Harvest, *Great-Britain* hath not, as some Calculaters suppose, Eight Millions worth of old *Corn*, and consequently not sufficient for our necessary Support for *Six Months*; for the Value of our annual Consumption of Grain, for Man, Beasts, Fowls and *Tillage*, is computed to be more than *Sixteen Millions Sterling*—And therefore three such succeeding Years of *Dearth*, as should not produce more than half our annual Consumption, might force Rich *Britains* to part with more Money to Foreigners, for the necessary support of themselves and their Dependants, and by Famine occasion the Destruction of more *Poor*, but useful *Britains*, than twenty Years Foreign War— which *Destructive Calamity* (by this Corporation) may be prevented.

Ninthly, Soon supply the *Royal Navy*, and *Army*, with well-affected and well disciplin'd *Volunteers*, and most other Necessaries, without Pressing one Man, for either Sea or Land-Service, because there may be then bred up, under the Authority of this *Loyal Corporation*, at least one hundred thousand well disciplin'd, and well-affected *Soldiers* and *Sailors*, who (in times of Peace) will be no Charge to the Nation; because these *Soldiers* and *Sailors* will then be capable of maintaining themselves, by their respective Mechanical Trades, in which they were bred when Young, and wherein they will

will be constantly employ'd (whilst at Home) by this Corporation—Whereas now, in times of Peace, many thousand of our present Sailors, having no Dependence but upon the Sea, in times of Peace, for want of Employment in British Service, are *forc'd* to go into Foreign, and many thousand of them are now suppos'd to be in Foreign Parts—And this Corporation will have always ready (but only for their *Own*, or the *Nation's* Service) vast Quantities of *Naval* and *War-like* Stores, and those the best in Europe, and kept in such proper Places, and that good Order, as to be ready on all sudden Occasions, whensoever the *King* and *Parliament*, for the time Being, shall require the same. And these to be *then* bought, at half that National Charge, which such like Stores could now be purchas'd.

Tenthly, Improve *Husbandry*, *Gardening* and *Forrestring*, in all their respective Branches; because *Colleges* may be erected by this Corporation for the *studying* and *practising* of whatsoever is necessary to be *known* or *done*, in Relation thereunto: In which Colleges Youths may be bred up, for less Charge to their Parents, than five Pounds *per Head per Annum*, in all Necessaries and Conveniencies of Life—And thereby these Youths will be well taught *how* to Improve all Sorts of Lands (capable of any Improvements) for any sort of Production whatsoever, whether for Profit or Pleasure.

Eleventhly, Totally discharge our *Poor-Rates*, within thirty Years—And from thenceforth defray half our National Charge, in *Peace* and *War*, without *Taxes*; because the *then* clear National Income of this Corporation (after all Rents, Sallaries, Interest, and this Corporation's Proposition, and other contingent Charges are deducted) may probably be *more* than *Three Millions Sterling per Annum* — And such clear Profits

will

will be then apply'd, as the *King* and *Parliament* shall order and appoint : And from these Premises perform'd.

Twelfthly and *Lastly*, Raise the Rents of most *Lands*, and near *double* their Purchase : For the Value of our *Lands*, in Rents and Years Purchase, will rise in *Proportion* to the *Increase* of our *Gold* and *Silver*, and the *Increase* of our ingenious and industrious Inhabitants. And our industrious Inhabitants will mightily increase, by encouraging the Commonality to *Marry*, and breeding up all their Children in a virtuous and ingenious Industry, and giving all ingenious Foreigners, such Encouragements to come here, as shall make them more happy with us, than they could ever hope to be in their Native Country. And our *Gold* and *Silver* will increase, in such a Proportion as our *Exports* in Value do *Exceed* our *Imports* and *Consumptions*—And these *Exports* will mightily increase, if our Merchants shall be capable of *under selling* all Europe in Foreign Markets—And that our Merchants may do, by those great Allowances in Goods, to them given by this Corporation—And if those Goods so *given* to our Merchants, should amount unto *five hundred thousand Pound per Annum*, yet the same will be no cost to the Nation ; because the then Labour of the now idle and unprofitable Poor, will both make those Goods, and produce, or purchase their Materials.

Two Hundred Years since we had very little Foreign Trade, and then our Money was *scarce*, and Interest at *Ten per Cent*, and our Lands then not worth *Ten Years Purchase* : But as our *Coin* increas'd by Trade, our Interest fell, and our Lands were rais'd in their Rents, and in their Purchase near *trebled*

Obj. It probably may be objected, that those before-mention'd National Benefits are only *chymical*, and *imaginary*; but that (in Fact) this propos'd Corporation (if ever establish'd) will never produce those many beneficial publick Effects; because that Corporation must always maintain *several hundred thousand Poor*, who thro' *Infancy, Age, or Infirmities*, will be always *incapable* of Labour; And most of the rest of the Poor, which at first will be under that Authority, have contracted such Habits of Idleness, as it will be very difficult, if not impossible to cure.

Ans. It's not pretended, that from the *first Year* of establishing this Corporation, all those before-mention'd publick Benefits will be produc'd; but that all those National Blessings will be gradually produc'd, after this Corporation hath been some few Years establish'd. But the *Charitable Maintenance* of all the now-chargeable and miserable Poor; and the Breeding up all the Children of the Poor in *Arts and Industry*, and all Sorts of Learning proper for their Circumstances, will commence, ev'n the *first year*, wherein this Corporation shall be settl'd. And even these Two above-mention'd charitable Effects (of Relieving th' Impotent, and Religiously, and Industriously Breeding up, Binding out, and Setting up, all the Children of the Poor) are such *Noble, and Truly-christian Performances*, as may probably move the *sole Fountain* of all Happiness, to bless *Great Britain*, both in these, and all other their Lawful Designs, with desir'd Success.

And the before-mention'd Discourse supposeth, that about *Three hundred Thousand Poor Britons*, will be always incapable of Labour; and (in the Opinion of all former *Calculations* upon this Subject) not more than that Number will, at all times, be incapable of Working. And as for the *Difficulty* of *Curing* the *Lazy*, of their *contracted slothful Habits*, there will be apply'd to them, such *powerful Doses* of *Dutch Physick*, for that Disease, as in *Holland* never did, and in *Great Britain*, scarce ever will, *fail of working a perfect Cure*. If any Gentlemen desire to know what that *Dutch Physick* is, and how it must be apply'd, I refer them to that before-mention'd large Discourse, just now Publish'd (by Mr. Warner in *Peter-noster-Row*) for *Relieving, Reforming, and Employing* all the Poor of *Great Britain*.

Here followeth a SCHEME (in the form of a Bill) which (it's humbly hop'd) in Time may produce all the before-mention'd National Benefits.



*A SCHEME (in the form of a Bill)
humbly Proposed for Relieving, Re-
forming, and Employing the Poor.*

The Preamble sets forth, That

Notwithstanding the many Laws (now in force) in *Great-Britain*, and the Great Charge this Kingdom is at, to *Relieve, Reform, and Employ the Poor*, yet many Thousand Incapable Poor want the very Necessaries of Life, and many more Capable Poor are permitted to live in *Idleness*, and Begging, and very many of other vicious Poor, are rather *harden'd* than reform'd by the common Methods of Punishment, now inflicted upon the common Poor Criminals; and most of our *Poor-Rates* do annually *increase*, and are become very *burthensom* to the Nation.

For Remedy whereof, and to the End that under one General Law, we may *Relieve, Reform and Employ, all the Poor of Great-Britain, and set up all poor young Men, and with Portions marry off, all poor young Maidens, when out of their respective Services.*— And that no Person whatsoever (whilst in *Great-Britain*) may by *Necessity* be *compell'd* to *beg or steal*, or take any other Vicious Courses for *Bread*.— And that all the *Capable Poor*, of the Reform'd Religion, may be here *Receiv'd, Reliev'd and Employ'd*.— And that the *Vicious Poor* may be both *assisted and encourag'd* to *reform*, and they, whom Incouragements will not reclaim, may, by *Confinement*, be restrain'd from following their former vicious Practices, and may further receive such **WHOLE-SOM SEVERITIES** as may be most probable to
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reform them, and deter others from *deserving the like Punishments*.— And in particular, that all the *Ignorant and Seditious Populace*, may be *rightly instructed* in their Duty to their GOD, their KING, and their COUNTRY, and taught how to behave themselves, with an UNIVERSAL LOVE and Charity, towards all their Fellow Subjects, how different soever from them, in Matters of Opinion or Worship.— All which Premises would be highly acceptable to Almighty GOD, on whose Blessing, the Prosperity and Happiness, of both our SOVEREIGN, and all his Subjects, do entirely depend.

The Loyal Commons of Great-Britain, having consider'd the Premises, and being also very sensible of that Merciful Providence, which plac'd our most Gracious Sovereign upon the Throne of his Ancestors, and thereby rescu'd our Religion, Laws and Liberties from the most threatening Danger. And the Faithful Commons being desirous, to use their utmost Endeavours, to make His MAJESTY's Reign more GLORIOUS, than any of his Royal Ancestors— Do therefore resolve, in, and by Virtue of ONE LAW, to establish such a Method, as probably may (within few Years) Justly discharge those MANY MILLIONS of National Debts which several former Reigns had contracted, and farther to remedy those many Miseries and Mischiefs (relating to the Poor) which numerous Laws, in by-past Reigns, could not redress.

The most Loyal Commons of Great-Britain do therefore beseech his most Excellent Majesty that it may be

Enacted, That his Majesty may appoint Commissioners to take voluntary Subscriptions, from Natives or Foreigners, Bodies Politick or Corporate, for any Sum not exceeding

for

for *Relieving, Reforming, and Employing the Poor of Great-Britain*, and for the Improvement of all *Mechanical Arts*, and *Manual Occupations*, for the General Advancement of both *Land and Trade*, in all the *Beneficial Branches* thereof, upon allowing unto those *Subscribers* the *Benefits, Priviledges, and Advantages*, hereafter express'd.

And that every *Subscriber*, upon his or her subscribing, to pay into the *Bank of England*, one eighth part of his *Subscription Money*, and the remaining *seven eights* in as many next subsequent *Quarters*, and upon any failure to forfeit what was before paid.

And upon *Subscribing one Million*, His Majesty may Incorporate the *Subscribers*, by the Name of *The Governour and Company of Guardians and Fathers of the Poor of Great-Britain*; or such other Name or Stile which to his Majesty's Great Wisdom shall seem most proper.

And they to have *perpetual Succession*, and a *Common Seal*, and empower'd to *Purchase and Alien*, to *Sue and be sued*, and to *make, alter, or repeal By-Laws*. And to choose their *Governour, Deputy-Governour, and Directors*, and all other *subordinate Officers*; and for reasonable Cause to *remove* either of them, and to choose others in their Rooms.

And when that *Charter of Incorporation* is past, then the *Bank of England* to pay to that Corporation what Money was (as before) paid by the said *Subscribers*.

All the *Stock* of this Corporation shall go to *Executors and Administrators*, and not to *Heirs*; and shall be transferrable and chargeable, as such *Charter* shall direct, and not otherwise.

And that His Majesty, upon passing the said *CHARTER OF INCORPORATION*, may appoint *Commissioners* to adjust what every *Parish, Precinct,*

inct, or Place within *Great-Britain*, did annually pay one Year with another, upon account of the Poor, from *Lady-day* 1717, to *Lady-day* 1718.

And those Commissioners empower'd to send for Persons and Papers, and to examine upon Oath; and all Persons (but Peers) oblig'd to obey their Summons, but none bound to travel (in Obedience to such Summons) above *Ten Miles* from his or her proper Abode.

And the said Commissioners shall *adjust* the seventh part of such seven Years Payments.

And every Parish, Precinct, and Place, shall pay (by half-yearly Payments) unto the said Corporation, or to their Order, that *seventh* part for the Term of Years, the first Payment thereof to be made, the very next *Lady-day*, *Midsummer-day*, *Michaelmass-day*, or *Christmas-day*, after the said Corporation shall give publick Notice, both in the *Gazette*, and in Print, to be publish'd and affix'd in some proper Place or Places, in every Market-Town in that County, that in such and such particular Places in that County, and in such Notifications very particularly to be mention'd, the said Corporation hath appointed their Officers, to receive *all* the *Poor* who are proper Inhabitants within the County, who shall either by publick Authority be sent to them, or who shall come of themselves to be *Reliev'd* or *Employ'd*.— But such Persons, so voluntarily coming, to bring a proper Testimonial under the Hands of three Persons (at the least) of *Substance* and *Credit*, of that Parish wherein the poor Person doth properly Inhabit,—*That the Bearer thereof is properly an Inhabitant within their Parish.*

Note, There will be no Occasion for the above Testimonial, *when* the said Corporation hath actually

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actually taken under their Care *all the Poor*, of, or in Great-Britain.— For then People of *All Nations, Tongues, and Languages* (to all which *Humanity* is a *Debt*) will be receiv'd by this Corporation, when Shipwreck, or Capti- on, shall have brought them hither. And such of them as shall not be capable of any manner of Labour, will nevertheless be kindly receiv'd, and, with a *Truly Christian Charity*, *Reliev'd*, according to their respective Wants.

But no Parish Officers oblig'd to carry their Poor above *Ten Miles* (from their respective Parishes) to be receiv'd by the proper Officer belonging to that Corporation.

The said Corporation *empower'd* and *requir'd* to take up all those, whom this present Act shall describe to be Common Rogues, Vagabonds, or sturdy or common Beggars.

The said Corporation oblig'd to keep all those to be committed to their Custody, and those whom by their proper Officers they shall (by Virtue of this Act) take up, as long as each and every Person to be committed and taken up, shall by this present Act be order'd by the said Corporation to be kept.

And the said Corporation *empower'd* and *requir'd* (by Encouragements and Corrections) to use all prudent Methods for *Reforming all Criminals* which shall be under their Authority.

And to the end that every Parish, Precinct, and Place, may be justly rated towards paying their respective Proportions for those Annual Payments to their Poor; Be it farther Enacted, That the Inhabitants of every Parish, Township or Village, who are liable to pay to such Poor-Rates, shall,
on

on the *Tuesday* in every *Easter-Week* Annually, choose two or more substantial Housholders to be Assessors and Collectors for the Year ensuing, and by four (at least) of those substantial Housholders, within such Parish, shall (within one Month next after such Choice) be presented to two or more neighbouring Justices, and being approv'd by such Justices, shall be Assessors and Collectors for the Year ensuing. And it shall and may be Lawful for such Collectors, by Warrant from two or more Justices, to Levy, by Distress, the Money so Assess'd, upon such as shall refuse to pay the said Poor-Rates; and for want of Distress, the Person refusing to pay, to be committed until payment.

And if such Parish, Precinct or Place, do not (as before) choose such Assessors and Collectors, then two or more neighbouring Justices may appoint such Assessors and Collectors. And if any Person in such Taxation thinks himself aggriev'd, he may Appeal to the next Petty Sessions, and from thence to the Quarter Sessions. — But if Judgment shall be given against the Appellant, he shall pay double Cost, to be tax'd by those Justices, before whom that Appeal shall be heard.

And such Collectors shall be allow'd in the Pound for all Money by them to be Collected; but no other Allowance whatsoever to be made to them, for the discharge of such their Duty, in relation to the Premises.

And such Assessors and Collectors as shall neglect their Duty, relating to the Premises, shall forfeit to be levy'd by Distress and Sale of their Goods.

No *Certiorari* to be allow'd, without giving Security to answer Costs.

And

And every Whore, who can't give Security to maintain her Bastard Child, and every reputed Father of such Bastard Child, as can't give such Security, shall be committed to the next House of Correction, belonging to the said Corporation, there to be kept to hard Labour for the space of

And forasmuch as many ill Persons do keep in their Houses, or often knowingly entertain and incourage lewd Women to follow such a vicious Course of Life, to the great Dishonour of Almighty God, and to the Debauching his Majesty's Subjects, For Prevention whereof, Be it Enacted, That if any Person shall, before two or more Justices, be thereof legally convicted, (who are hereby empower'd and required, upon Oath, to examine such Crimes, and to proceed to Conviction for the same) he or she shall then forfeit

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And for the suppressing of Rogues, Vagabonds and Sturdy Beggars, Be it farther Enacted, That

All Persons calling themselves Scholars, and going about begging.

All Seafaring Men going about begging.

All Sailors and Marines going about the Country begging, unless authoriz'd by some Justice of the Peace for a certain Time, and to a certain Place.

All Idle Persons using unlawful Games, or pretending to tell Fortunes.

All Persons pretending to be Patent-Gatherers, or Collectors for Prisons.

All Bear-wards, common Players of Interludes and Minstrels, or common Ballad-Singers, wandering about.

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All Persons pretending to be Patent-Gatherers, or Collectors for Prisons.

All Bear-wards, common Players of Interludes and Minstrels, or common Ballad-Singers, wandering about.

All Juglers and Tinkers wandering abroad.

All wandering Persons, or Labourers refusing to Work at the Wages common in the Places where they live.

All Persons able to Work, who shall leave their Children to the Parish.

All Persons deliver'd out of Gaol, who shall beg for their Fees.

All Beggars pretending Loss by Fire.

All wandering pretended *Egyptians*.

All such shall be adjudg'd Rogues, Vagabonds, and Sturdy Beggars, and may be carry'd before a Justice, who may send them to some House of Correction, belonging to the said Corporation, there to be kept to hard Labour for the space of

And all such who shall apprehend such Rogues, Vagabonds, and Sturdy Beggars, shall be paid by the Keeper of the House of Correction, to whose Custody he or she shall be committed.

And such Persons not to be thence discharg'd, without he or she shall give Security for his or her future good Behaviour, for the space of years.

Mariners and Disbanded Soldiers, shall be convey'd by the said Corporation (if by them desir'd) to their respective Places of abode.

And if any Person shall violently resist any Person in the Execution of this Act, in any Branch thereof, the Person and Persons so violently resisting such Execution, shall respectively forfeit

to be recover'd, with full Costs of Suit, in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record, &c.

But if the Person or Persons so violently resisting, shall appear to be Poor, then such Person, upon Conviction, before two or more Justices of the Peace, shall by them be committed to some House of

of Correction, belonging to the said Corporation, there to receive proper Correction, and to be there confin'd to hard Labour, for the space of and not from thence, after that time, to be discharg'd, until he or she shall give good Security for his or her good Behaviour, for the Term of Years.

And forasmuch as many poor People in this Kingdom of *Great-Britain*, have heretofore suffer'd extream Want, in those Years wherein Corn hath been excessive dear, and the *richer Britains* have been *thereby* compell'd to buy Corn of *Foreigners* at *very high Prices*, to preserve themselves, their Families and Dependants, from perishing under such a Calamity.— To *prevent* therefore such a *Destruction* of the *Poor*, and such an *Impoverishment* of the *Rich*,

It is farther

Enacted, That within *Ten Years* after passing the said Charter of Incorporation, the said Corporation shall be obliged to build a *sufficient Number* of *Publick Granaries*, in each County of *Great-Britain*, and most of them to be built near some Sea-Port or Navigable Rivers.

And the more to encourage the said Corporation to build such *Publick Granaries*, and to *Till*, and lay up therein, great Quantities of *All Sorts of Corn and Grain* (proper for Man or Beast) beyond what may be thought necessary for the Subsistence of the Members of that Corporation,

It is farther

Enacted, That for every Hundred Pounds worth of such an *Overplus of Corn and Grain*, so laid up in store, the said Corporation shall be allow'd after the rate of *Five per Cent. per Annum*. And the Corn so to be laid up as an *Overplus* in Store,

to be valu'd (*but for this Purpose only*) after the respective Rates or Prices following, *viz.* Wheat at 30 Shillings *per Quarter*, Barley at 20 Shillings *per Quarter*, Oats at 8 Shillings *per Quarter*, and each, and every other Sort of Grain, according to these Proportions.

And the said Corporation to be allow'd after the Rate of *Two per Cent. per Annum* for all Corn which they shall keep for others in those Granaries. But the said Corporation not permitted to export any Corn, unless the common Prices in or near *London*, shall be under the respective Prices above mention'd; nor permitted to sell any Corn to any of his Majesty's Subjects, but when the Prices shall be double to what are before particularly mention'd.

And forasmuch as the *Royal Navy of Great-Britain* are (under GOD) our greatest Security in Times of *War against any Invasion*, and for *Protection of our Trade*, and the *Destruction of our Enemies*——

To the End therefore that all necessary *Naval and Warlike Stores*, in relation to such Ships, may be always ready prepar'd, and *experienc'd* and *well-affected Sailors* may be always ready at Hand, for Manning any Number of such Ships, for any *sudden Expedition*,

It is therefore farther

Enacted, That the said Corporation shall be allow'd after the Rate of *Five per Cent. per Annum*, for all such *Naval and Warlike Stores*, which they shall have in proper Places ready to put on Board such Ships, whensoever the *Lord High-Admiral*, or *Lords of the Admiralty*, for the Time being, shall from Time to Time direct and appoint, pursuant to such Powers (upon such Occasions only) as by *King and Parliament* shall be given to him or them,
for

for requiring the said Corporation to furnish such Stores, and upon such Terms, and for such Prices, as between the *Commissioners* of the Navy, for the Time being, and the said Corporation, shall be agreed upon.

And it is farther

Enacted, That the said Corporation shall be allow'd Forty Shillings *per Head per Annum*, for every *Sailor* and *Marine* past Eighteen Years of Age, which that Corporation shall have instructed in all parts of the Duty, both of a *Sailor* and a *Marine*, according to such Methods and Rules of Instruction and Discipline, as by the said *Lord High-Admiral*, or Lords of the Admiralty for the Time being, and by our *Captain-General*, shall be given to that Corporation, by those *Sailors* and *Marines*, to be observ'd in such Instructions and Discipline.

And the said Corporation oblig'd, from Time to Time, to transmit to the Admiralty, the *Numbers* and *Names* of all such *Sailors* and *Marines*, and where, from Time to Time, they shall respectively reside, or to what Ship or Vessel they shall respectively belong.

And the said Corporation shall be allow'd *Fifty Shillings per Head* for every able *Sailor* and *Marine*, which the said Corporation shall at any Time send on Board any Ship or Vessel belonging to the Royal Navy.

And to the end the *Commissioners* of the Navy, for the Time being, may always know both the Quantity and Quality of such *Naval* and *Warlike Stores*, as the said Corporation hath always ready for the Nations Service,

It

It is therefore

Further Enacted, That the said Corporation shall twice in the Year, viz. within Days after and within Days after

transmit to the Commissioners of the Navy, for the Time being, a very true and exact Account, of the *Quantity* and *Quality* of such Naval and Warlike Stores, which that Corporation hath ready for *Great-Britain's* Use, and in what particular Places those Stores are kept, and what particular Stores are kept in each Place.

And the Commissioners of the Navy, for the Time being, are empower'd to appoint Commissioners to view those Stores, so that the Commissioners of the Navy, for the Time being, may be the better inform'd of the *Quantity* and *Quality* of such Stores.

And forasmuch as a General Permission to the said Corporation, to sell any sorts of Goods or Merchandizes, would very much tend to the great Impoverishment of all other Persons (concern'd in *Making* or *Selling* such Manufactures) which do not belong to the Corporation, because that Corporation will make all Kind of Manufactures much Cheaper than any others can make the same, and upon much cheaper Terms will be able to send them to Foreign Markets, than any of our own Merchants can supply the same,

It is therefore

Farther Enacted, That the said Corporation shall not sell to any, besides his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, any sorts of Goods, Wares or Merchandizes whatsoever (*Coals* and *Fish* excepted) unless it be to those Merchants, to whom that Corporation shall allow at least after the Rate of per Cent. in such Goods as each Merchant shall choose

choose for himself, for all those Goods, which such Merchants shall buy of any *British* Manufacturers, to the End that such Merchants may afford to give the better Prices to all those industrious Manufacturers, who shall not be under the Authority of this Corporation; and yet such Merchants, by reason of those large Allowances, which in Goods (as before) shall be given to them, may be enabled to under-sell our Rivals in Trade in all Foreign Markets.

But every Merchant, to whom such Allowances in Goods are to be given, shall previously give good Security, that he will *bona Fide* Export the Goods so given, and the Goods so to be bought, to such particular Markets, as in the Conditions of such *Security Bonds* shall be very particularly mention'd.

And to the End that the said Corporation may have the Charitable Assistance of all well-dispos'd *Christians*, towards carrying on this Pious, Charitable and Beneficial Design, of *Relieving, Reforming, and Employing* the Poor of *Great-Britain*,

It is farther

Enacted, That the said Corporation shall, for Years receive such Publick or Private Charities (except as hereafter excepted) which have been, or shall be given to the Poor. And the said Corporation may appoint such Persons, as they shall think proper, to stand at the Doors of any Church or Chappel, or other Place of *Divine Worship*, to receive the Charity of all Compassionate Christians. And the said Corporation empower'd to fix Charity-Boxes, in such publick Places as they shall think proper, to receive what any Good People shall give for the said Charitable Purposes.

And

And to the End that the Legislature may be rightly inform'd what the said Corporation shall annually receive, upon any Account whatsoever, and what Goods of all Kinds that Corporation hath in Store — The said Corporation is oblig'd to keep a very just and regular Account of all Money by them receiv'd, upon any score whatsoever, and of all Goods, of all Qualities and Kinds, and of all their Stock, within Doors and without, and of all their Payments and Disbursements upon any Occasion whatsoever.

And the said Corporation shall once every Year, (*viz.*) within Ten Days next after every *Michaelmas-day*, transmit to the Lord High-Treasurer, or the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for the time being, a very just and regular abstract Account of all their annual Accounts, with proper References to those very Books of Accounts, wherein each particular Article of that Abstract is at large express'd.

And the said Corporation is requir'd, within Ten Days next after the beginning of every Session of Parliament, to lay before both *Lords* and *Commons*, such another abstract Account as aforesaid. And the said Corporation oblig'd to keep, in each County of *Great-Britain*, one General Office for all their Receipts and Disbursements relating to that County, and of all *Goods, Wares, or Merchandizes* (of what Nature, Kind, or Quality soever) which they have in such County, and where, in particular, each and every Part is kept.

And the said Corporation is oblig'd to keep, within the Bills of Mortality, one General Office, for all the Kingdom of *Great-Britain*, to which last mention'd General Office, very true and just
Transcripts

Transcripts of all their other particular Offices, in every County of *Great-Britain*, shall be annually transmitted.

And it shall and may be Lawful for any of his Majesty's Subjects (at convenient Times) to search the Books, in any or either of those County Offices, or in the said more General National Office, within the Bills of Mortality, upon paying for every annual Search.

And the said Corporation oblig'd to print and publish, from Time to Time, all their *Rules, Orders*, and By-Laws, and an abstract Account of the most material part of their Administration, and to lay the same before both *Lords* and *Commons*, within Ten Days next after the beginning of every Session of Parliament.

And to the End that all Officers, and others belonging to the said Corporation, may be encouraged to be both Ingenious and Industrious, in the discharge of their respective Duties, in their several and respective Stations,

It is farther

Enacted, That the said Corporation may allow to their said Officers, such reasonable *Salaries, Gratifications* and Perquisites, as to the said Corporation, in their General Courts, shall be thought reasonable and just.

And to incourage all Persons to discover all Frauds, Irregularities, or Male-Administrations, which shall be committed by any Persons, who shall belong to the said Corporation,

It is farther

Enacted, That whosoever shall make such Discovery (upon Conviction of any Offender relating thereunto) he shall receive, over and above his

full Cost and Charges, in making such Discovery, and Prosecuting such Offenders to be paid by the said Corporation, within Ten Days next after such Conviction as aforesaid.

And to the End that all Poor Boys and Girls, to be bred up under the Authority of this Corporation, may be the better instructed and fitted for such Services, to which they shall afterwards be respectively Bound; and whilst under the Authority of that Corporation, may be carefully instructed in such Principles, as may make them *zealous for our* most GRACIOUS SOVERIGN, his Heirs and Successors.

It is farther

Enacted, That all such Poor Boys shall be kept by the said Corporation, until they shall respectively arrive at the Age of Eighteen Years; and all such Poor Girls, until Sixteen Years of Age. And none of those *Boys* to be Bound for more than *Five Years*; and none of those *Girls* for more than *Four Years*, or until Married. And none of those Boys or Girls to be Bound to any Person, who shall appear to the said Corporation to be *disaffected* to the present Government. And all such Poor Boys and Girls, so to be Bound out, to be found by the said Corporation, all *necessary Wearables*, during their Apprenticeships, and if Sick or Lame during such Servitudes, to be provided for by the said Corporation, during such Infirmities.

And the more to incourage all such Apprentices, both Boys and Girls, to be *Sober, Faithful, Ingenious* and Industrious, during their Apprenticeships,

It is therefore farther

Enacted, That the said Corporation (upon Expiration of each Servitude) shall allow to each such young Man and Maiden, who shall bring from his or her said Master or Mistress, or other Credible Persons, a proper Testimonial, of his or her Sobriety and faithful Service, and of his or her Good Affection to his present Majesty, and the present Settlement of the Crown — so much in wearing Apparel, Linnen of all sorts proper, and of proper Household Furniture, and in Money, to such a Value as the proper Officers (by the said Corporation for such Purposes to be appointed) shall think such young Man or Maiden ought to have, as a Reward for his Sobriety, Faithfulness, Ingenuity and Industry, and Good Affection. But to no such young Man or Maiden shall any such Allowances be made, if he or she shall appear to be disaffected to the present Government — Nor shall any such well affected young Man or Maiden receive, in such Allowances, less than to the Value of Ten Pounds. But to such young Men and Maidens whose Merits shall appear to be extraordinary, the said Corporation is hereby permitted to make them such Allowances, as aforesaid, to the Value of One Hundred Pound Sterling, or more, if the General Court, of the said Corporation, shall think fit to confirm the same.

And that the Parliament may be certain, that they are rightly inform'd of all the Receipts and Disbursements, and of all the Stock within Doors and without, and of all the Effects, of what Nature and Kind soever, which shall belong to the said Corporation,

It is farther

Enacted, That Commissioners shall, by Act of Parliament, be appointed, annually to take an Account of all the Receipts and Disbursements of the said Corporation, and of all their Stock, within Doors and without, and of all their other Effects, of what Nature or Kind soever, which shall belong to the said Corporation, *and of the most material Parts of their Administration.*

And the said Commissioners empower'd to send for any Persons (except Peers) and for any Books or Papers belonging to the said Corporation, and to examine upon Oath, relating to the Premises: But every one thereupon summon'd to be allow'd reasonable Charges.

And the said Commissioners shall, within Twenty Days next after the beginning of every Session of Parliament, print an Abstract of such Accounts, with proper References to those Books, wherein each particular Article shall be more particularly express'd. And the said Commissioners shall (within Twenty Days) give unto both Lords and Commons such printed abstract Account.

And it is farther

Enacted, That whatsoever shall appear to be the annual *Net Gains* of the said Corporation, (clear of all Charges whatsoever) shall be divided into equal Parts, Part whereof shall belong to the said Corporation, to be proportionably divided among the aforesaid Subscribers, their Executors, Administrators and Assigns, according to his, her, or their respective Interest in the said Subscription-Money; and the remaining Parts, of such clear annual Profit, shall be apply'd, as by Act of Parliament shall (from Time to Time) be ordered and appointed.

And

And be it farther

Enacted and Declar'd, That it shall, and may be Lawful, for the said Corporation, to take young Children, or other young People (besides those to be bred up as Charity-Children) to be maintain'd by, and under the Care of that Corporation, and to be found by that Corporation, all the Necessaries and Conveniences of Life, suitable to their respective Circumstances ; and to be instructed in such sorts of Learning, as between the Parents or Friends of such Children, and that Corporation, shall be agreed upon, and for such annual Payments or Allowances, as shall be agreed upon between the Parties concern'd. Any Thing herein before contain'd to the contrary hereof, in any wise notwithstanding.

And it is farther

Enacted and Declar'd, That all the aforesaid Allowances, which (as before) are propos'd to be made to the said Corporation, for laying up Corn in their Granaries (for *Great-Britain's* Service) and for their Naval and Warlike Stores (for the Use of *Great-Britain*) and for the before mention'd Allowances, for their breeding up (and supplying the Royal Navy with) *Sailors* and *Marines*, shall not be made good to that Corporation by any New Tax to be impos'd ; But all those Allowances are to be made good to the said Corporation, out of the aforesaid Poor-Rates, Occasional Charities, and Forfeitures to the Poor, and out of such other annual Gains, as shall arise to the said Corporation from the Labour of those under their Authority, or from any other Gains, Profits or Advantages, which the said Corporation shall make, from the Profits, Powers, or Priviledges, herein before granted to them. And

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And the said Corporation may also agree to maintain, in all the Necessaries and Conveniences of Life, any ancient Men or Women (which are not Objects of Charity) upon such Terms as shall be agreed upon, any thing herein contain'd to the contrary thereof, in any wise notwithstanding—.

Whereas very many Poor *Britains* are often oblig'd to Pawn their Goods, and sometimes their very necessary Apparel for the more necessary Support of Nature, both in themselves and their Children— And under these deplorable Circumstances they generally pay after the Rate of Six Pence for the Lent of *Twenty Shillings for Thirty Days*; and many Times they pay One Half-penny, even for the Lent of Six-pence, tho' but for One Day— To the End therefore, that the Poor and all others may be supply'd with Money upon Pawns, upon much more reasonable Terms—

It is farther

Enacted, That it shall and may be Lawful for the said CORPORATION of *FATHERS* and *GUARDIANS* of the *POOR*, to receive from all Persons pawning Goods (for Warehouse-Room, Attendance and Interest) after the Rate of Two Pence for the Lent of *Twenty Shillings for Thirty Days*, and after that Rate for any Sum under Fifty Shillings. But if the Money so to be lent be under Five Shillings, and above Half a Crown, then that Corporation may receive one Half-penny for the Lent thereof for *Thirty Days*; and if the Money so to be lent, be Half a Crown or under, then that Corporation is hereby permitted to receive only One Farthing for the Lent thereof for *Thirty Days*— But when the Money so to be lent

lent shall be more than Fifty Shillings, then that Corporation is hereby permitted to receive only after the Rate of Three Half-pence for the Lent of every Twenty Shillings for Thirty Days—— But it shall and may be Lawful for the said Corporation to sell all Goods by Publick Auction, that shall have been pawn'd with them above One Year, and the Interest for the same so long due. And upon every such Sale, Publick Notice thereof to be affix'd at several publick Places, at, and near the respective Places where such Goods are so pawn'd, and where they are to be sold— And whatsoever Overplus, upon such Sale, there shall remain, after the Principal and Interest then due are deducted, that Overplus shall be paid to the Person pawning these Goods, or to his or her Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, upon demanding the same of the Person or Persons principally to be concern'd in managing such Sale.

And be it farther

Enacted, That all Bonds to be given by this Corporation, shall be transferrable as *South-Sea* Bonds now are.

If any Person be Sued for what he shall do by Virtue of this Act, the Defendant may plead the General Issue, and give this Act, and the special Matter in Evidence; and upon a Nonsute, or a Verdict against the Plaintiff, the Defendant shall recover
Costs.

These Heads of a Bill, for *Relieving, Reforming,* and *Employing* the *Poor*, are only propos'd as an *Imperfect Essay*, and most humbly submitted to the Consideration of our *Noble and Honourable SENATORS.*

I shall

I shall now conclude, in (almost) the Word of a very Ingenious Gentleman, upon the Subject of Education, (*viz.*) *If any Man shall contrive better Method [for RELIEVING, REFORMING and EMPLOYING the POOR] than what I have most humbly propos'd, GOD's Blessing be on his Head but Ten Thousand Blessings will be everlastingly with the Souls of our Most Gracious SOVEREIGN, and all those his Wise COUNSELLORS, LEGISLATORS, and PATRIOTS, who shall become the GREAT FINISHERS of so blessed a Work; by means whereof, numbers of Souls, in Ages to come, will have perpetual Obligations to praise them on Earth, and in Heaven it self to laud GOD eternally, for that Noblest of CHARITIES, which was the GREATEST of all Human Aids in bringing them thither.*

F I N I S.

Note, The Discourse at large (upon this Subject) is entitled, The IMMORALITIES of the POOR a National Sin, and their Miseries a Publick Shame, a General Charge, and a National Loss: But their REFORMATION and Happiness would remove that Guilt, raise the Glory, and double the Wealth and Strength of Great-Britain; And Pay

O L D D E B T S, Without N E W T A X E S.

That Discourse to be sold by *T. Warner* in *Pater-Noster-Row.* Price
Hitch'd Two Shillings.

